

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00
EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
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UNCLAS ATHENS 5215

PARIS FOR SECRETARY ADAMS/DAVID JEWELL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, ETRN, OVIP (ADAMS, BROCK), GR
SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE OF US DOT SECRETARY BROCK ADAMS'
VISIT TO ATHENS, MAY 31 TO JUNE 3

REF: ATHENS 5170

1. JUNE 1 NEWS CONFERENCE GENERATED EXTENSIVE LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF SECRETARY ADAMS' VISIT. ALL DAILY NEWSPAPERS, AS WELL AS SPECIAL-INTEREST MEDIA, REPORTED SESSION AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. IN ADDITION, BOTH NATIONAL TV NETWORKS TELECAST TAPES COVERAGE ON ALL NEWSCASTS IN AFTERNOON AND EVENING. SPECIAL HALF-HOUR TELEVISION INTERVIEW RECORDED JUNE 1 SCHEDULED FOR BROADCAST TONIGHT. STORY ALSO RECEIVED HEAVY PLAY ON LOCAL RADIO.

2. GREEK PRINT MEDIA STRESSED IN JUNE 2 ISSUES THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S HOPE FOR A FAIR AND EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT IN CYPRUS. LOWER-KEYED PLAY WAS GIVEN TO THE EFFECTS
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OF NEW TANKER REQUIREMENTS.

3. IN DAILY PRESS, PRO-GOVERNMENT AKROPOLIS, INDEPENDENT PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI, ECONOMIC DAILY NAFTEMBORIKI AND PRO-GOVERNMENT APOGEVMATINI ALL CARRIED SIMILAR HEADLINES: "PRESIDENT CARTER WISHES FAIR AND EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT OF PROBLEMS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA." ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION ESTIA

HEADLINED: "THE WAY CARTER SEES MEDITERRANEAN PROBLEMS." THREE OTHER ATHENS DAILIES AND TWO ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPERS CARRIED EXCEPRTS OF THE NEWS CONFERENCE, FOCUSING ON "THE IMPACT THAT THE TANKER-CONSTRUCTION) MEASURES WOULD HAVE ON THE GREEK MARITIME FLEET." LEFTIST OPPOSITION ELEFTHEROTYPIA, IN A LENGTHY REPORT BY LOUIS DANOS, TITLED "THREE-WAY CHECK ON TANKERS ENTERING THE UNITED STATES" SAID: "THE VERY STRICT MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AGAINST OIL SPILLING -- AND THE IMPACT WHICH THOSE MEASURES MIGHT HAVE ON THE GREEK MARITIME FLEET AS WELL AS ON US ENERGY POLICY -- WERE THE DOMINANT TOPICS IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY BROCK ADAMS. HE ALSO REFERRED, IN PSSING, TO THE 'AEGEAN CRISIS'..." LEFTIST

OPPOSITION TO NEA, UNDER THE HEADLINE "MORE MEMBERS OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO VISIT ATHENS," SAID: "THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CARTER'S PROPOSALS...FOR SAFEGUARDING US COASTS FROM OIL SPILLS... APT TO CREATE SERIOUS PROBLEMS TO GREEK TANKERS..." PRO-GOVERNMENT VRATHYNI HEADLINED: "MEMBER OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION IN ATHENS" AND RAN STRAIGHT NEWS COVERAGE OF SESSION. NAFTEMBORIKI, A SHIPPING NEWS DAILY, IN A TWO-COLUMN STORY, QUOTED LIBERALLY FROM THE NEWS CONFERENCE. ESTIA, ON JUNE 1, CARRIED REPORT OF SECRETARY'S UPCOMING ARRIVAL -- BASED ON USIS-SUPPLIED MATERILS-- AND REFERRED TO THE PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO CONGRESS REGARDING THE TANKER ISSUE AND NEW MEASURES FOR PREVENTING POLLUTION.

4. AN EDITORIAL IN COMMUNIST (EXTERIOR) RIZOSPASTIS ATTEMPTED TO MINIMIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEWS CONFERENCE AND THE SECRETARY'S ANSWER TO THE QUESTION ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE CYPRUS PROBLEM: "GREEK CARTERITES WERE VERY FRUSTRATED BY US SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION BROCK ADAMS
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WHO...HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ADVERTISE HIS GOVERNMENT'S 'PEACE-LOVING' POLICIES...REPORTERS...ASKED HIM WHETHER HE WOULD CARE TO REAFFIRM MR CARTER'S PRE-ELECTORAL POSITIONS ON THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE...MR ADAMS GAVE A VERY 'DIPLOMATIC ANSWER,' SAYING THAT 'PRESIDENT CARTER HAS AN ENORMOUS FRIENDSHIP FOR THE PEOPLES IN THIS AREA AND HIS GREAT DESIRE IS THAT THERE BE A FAIR AND EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT OF THEIR PROBLEMS... GLOOM AND DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE EDITORS' OFFICES OF THE EXTREME RIGHT-WING PAPERS WHO AWAITED ONE (PRO-GREEK) WORD..."

5. POST WILL CONTINUE MONITOR AND FORWARD PERIODICAL AND OTHER COVERAGE IN FUTURE.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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